

payments for persons with multiple permits. In its rulemaking to establish fee schedules, the Commission is also directed to consider a method of rewarding facilities which achieve full compliance with administrative and self-monitoring reporting requirements, and to consider, in those cases where the cost of renewal or amendment of a permit is less than for the original permit, a lower fee for such the renewal or amendment."

Sec. 6. Section 3 of this act and this section are effective upon ratification. The remainder of this act becomes effective 1 January 1996 and applies to an application for a new permit, a modification of an existing permit, or a reissuance or renewal of an existing permit filed on or after that date.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 26th day of July, 1995.

H.B. 952

CHAPTER 485

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NORTH CAROLINA BRIDGE AUTHORITY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. Chapter 136 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"ARTICLE 6F.

"North Carolina Bridge Authority.

"§ 136-89.159. Bridge projects.

(a) The creation of the North Carolina Bridge Authority is necessitated by:

- (1) The high cost of constructing long bridges;
- (2) The need for providing better access to areas of a peninsula of the mainland where egress has been blocked by federal acquisition of property; and
- (3) The need for providing additional critically needed evacuation routes from the Outer Banks during hurricanes and in the event of other natural disasters.

(b) The North Carolina Bridge Authority shall construct, maintain, repair, and operate a bridge of more than two miles in length going from the mainland to a peninsula from which land egress is through property of the United States.

"§ 136-89.160. Funding for projects.

All expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this Article shall be payable solely from funds, including federal funds, that are now or may become available to the Authority in the future for projects. Any fees collected under this Article shall be credited to the Highway Trust Fund and used to offset the costs of building, maintaining, or operating the bridge and other related projects.

"§ 136-89.161. North Carolina Bridge Authority.

(a) There is created a body politic and corporate to be known as the 'North Carolina Bridge Authority'. The Authority is constituted a public